

PATENT COOPERATION TREATY

From the
INTERNATIONAL SEARCHING AUTHORITY

To:
GREGORY N. CLEMENTS
DOUGHERTY, CLEMENTS, HOFER & BERNARD
1901 ROXBOROUGH ROAD, SUITE 300
CHARLOTTE, NC 28211

PCT

WRITTEN OPINION OF THE
INTERNATIONAL SEARCHING AUTHORITY

(PCT Rule 43bis.1)

Applicant's or agent's file reference 2003/14 PCT		Date of mailing (day/month/year) 01 NOV 2005
International application No. PCT/US05/03683		FOR FURTHER ACTION See paragraph 2 below
International filing date (day/month/year) 04 February 2005 (04.02.2005)	Priority date (day/month/year) 06 February 2005 (06.02.2005)	
International Patent Classification (IPC) or both national classification and IPC IPC(7): C08L 37/00, 51/06 and US Cl.: 428/364,373,374; 525/74,165,191,231,240,386		
Applicant INVISTA NORTH AMERICA S.A.R.L.		

1. This opinion contains indications relating to the following-items: _____

- ☒ Box No. I Basis of the opinion
- ☐ Box No. II Priority
- ☐ Box No. III Non-establishment of opinion with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability
- ☐ Box No. IV Lack of unity of invention
- ☒ Box No. V Reasoned statement under Rule 43bis.1(a)(i) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement
- ☐ Box No. VI Certain documents cited
- ☐ Box No. VII Certain defects in the international application
- ☐ Box No. VIII Certain observations on the international application

2. FURTHER ACTION

If a demand for international preliminary examination is made, this opinion will be considered to be a written opinion of the International Preliminary Examining Authority ("IPEA") except that this does not apply where the applicant chooses an Authority other than this one to be the IPEA and the chosen IPEA has notified the International Bureau under Rule 66.1bis(b) that written opinions of this International Searching Authority will not be so considered.

If this opinion is, as provided above, considered to be a written opinion of the IPEA, the applicant is invited to submit to the IPEA a written reply together, where appropriate, with amendments, before the expiration of 3 months from the date of mailing of Form PCT/ISA/220 or before the expiration of 22 months from the priority date, whichever expires later.

For further options, see Form PCT/ISA/220.

3. For further details, see notes to Form PCT/ISA/220.

Name and mailing address of the ISA/ US Mail Stop PCT, Attn: ISA/US Commissioner for Patents P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450 Facsimile No. (571) 273-3201	Date of completion of this opinion 14 October 2005 (14.10.2005)	Authorized officer Jeffrey B. Robertson Telephone No. 571-222-1700
--	--	--

Form PCT/ISA/237 (cover sheet) (April 2005)

WRITTEN OPINION OF THE
INTERNATIONAL SEARCHING AUTHORITY

International application No.
PCT/US05/03683

Box No. V Reasoned statement under Rule 43 bis.1(a)(i) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement

1. Statement

Novelty (N)	Claims <u>NONE</u>	YES
	Claims <u>1-26</u>	NO
Inventive step (IS)	Claims <u>NONE</u>	YES
	Claims <u>1-26</u>	NO
Industrial applicability (IA)	Claims <u>1-26</u>	YES
	Claims <u>NONE</u>	NO

2. Citations and explanations:

Claims 1-26 lack an inventive step under PCT Article 33(3) as being obvious over Tabor et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,372,885):

Tabor teaches bicomponent fibers that are made from a thermoplastic high performance component and a linear polyethylene grafted with maleic anhydride. Col. 4, lines 34-58 and col. 5, lines 45-67. In col. 6, lines 61-62, Tabor teaches that pigments may be added to the polymer blend. This would include titanium dioxide, a common pigment. In col. 8, lines 42-60, Tabor teaches that the bicomponent fibers are made into a batt and are blended with natural or synthetic fibers such as polyester or cotton. The properties of the batt set forth in the present claims would be inherent due to the materials used in the batt. The amounts and properties of the different components would have been obvious modifications to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention depending on the particular end use of the batts produced.

Claims 1-6, 10-19, and 23-25 lack an inventive step under PCT Article 33(3) as being obvious over Sawyer et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,082,899).

Sawyer teaches bicomponent fibers that are made from a thermoplastic high performance component and a linear polyethylene grafted with maleic anhydride. Col. 4, lines 18-30. In col. 7, lines 36-53, Sawyer teaches that the bicomponent fibers are made into a batt and are blended with natural or synthetic fibers such as polyester or cotton. The properties of the batt set forth in the present claims would be inherent due to the materials used in the batt. The amounts and properties of the different components would have been obvious modifications to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention depending on the particular end use of the batts produced.

Claims 1-26 meet the criteria set out in PCT Article 33(4), and thus have industrial applicability because the subject matter claimed can be made or used in industry.

WRITTEN OPINION OF THE
INTERNATIONAL SEARCHING AUTHORITY

International application No.

PCT/US05/03683

Box No. I Basis of this opinion

1. With regard to the language, this opinion has been established on the basis of:

- ☒ the international application in the language in which it was filed
- ☐ a translation of the international application into _____, which is the language of a translation furnished for the purposes of international search (Rules 12.3(a) and 23.1(b)).

2. With regard to any nucleotide and/or amino acid sequence disclosed in the international application and necessary to the claimed invention, this opinion has been established on the basis of:

a. type of material

- ☐ a sequence listing
- ☐ table(s) related to the sequence listing

b. format of material

- ☐ on paper
- ☐ in electronic form

c. time of filing/furnishing

- ☐ contained in the international application as filed.
- ☐ filed together with the international application in electronic form.
- ☐ furnished subsequently to this Authority for the purposes of search.

3. ☐ In addition, in the case that more than one version or copy of a sequence listing and/or table(s) relating thereto has been filed or furnished, the required statements that the information in the subsequent or additional copies is identical to that in the application as filed or does not go beyond the application as filed, as appropriate, were furnished.

4. Additional comments: